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And finally, on page 85, I again emphasized the true position of these birds by reiterating that it is "rather probable that the Tubinares should be placed in the neighborhood of the Steganopodes and Herodii."

Professor Fürbringer, in his last review of this subject (Jena. Zeitschr. Naturw., **36**, pp. 644-646, 1902), does full justice to the subject as follows: "Stejneger-Cope ('85/'89) follow Huxley in the rather unfortunate establishment of the Cecomorphæ, but Stejneger mentions particularly that the Tubinares perhaps are better regarded as a special ordo with nearer relation to the Steganopodes and Herodii. . . . On the strength of later considerations I still adhere essentially to the opinion expressed by me in 1888, but I am inclined to place their relationship to the Ciconiiformes more in the foreground and that to the Laro-Limicolæ more in the background than then. . . . On the other hand, I cannot follow those authors who argue for placing them too far from the Laro-Limicolæ," the group called *Pluviales* by me in my first quotation above from the Standard Natural History.

LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Beebe's The Bird¹ in the American Nature Series is easily one of the most useful as well as one of the most interesting books which this epoch of bird books has produced. It marks, we hope, the beginning of a new period in amateur bird study, a period when many of those who now keep bird lists as a pastime will take up the serious study of the bird itself. The book contains seventeen chapters, the titles of some of which are as follows,—The Framework of the Bird, The Skull, The Food of Birds, The Senses, Beaks and Bills, The Eggs of Birds, etc.

Mr. Beebe is curator of birds in the New York Zoological Park. His position has enabled him to observe at close range the habits of a great variety of birds, and also to discover the needs of an inquiring public. Mr. Beebe is, however, much more than a keeper of animals; he is a trained scientist and a skilful lecturer. He has succeeded in this book in arranging a large amount of accurate information clearly and forcibly, and to present it in such a way as to arouse and hold the reader's interest.

The value of enlarging the amateur student's horizon is constantly

¹ Beebe, C. William. *The Bird. Its Form and Function*. New York, Henry Holt & Co. x + 496 pp. 371 figures.

in the author's mind. The first chapter, therefore, presents the essential facts which palæontology contributes to our knowledge of the bird, and throughout the book there are frequent and illuminating references to homologies or analogies in the kindred classes. The delicate balance of Nature and the complex interrelations of all organic life are well illustrated in the chapter on food.

Where a large number of forms are discussed it is difficult to avoid the appearance of a mere catalogue of compiled facts. Evans' Dictionary of Birds is a noticeable example of work of this kind. Mr. Beebe has avoided this danger by a happy introduction from time to time of bits of personal observation, or by enlarging on some exceptionally interesting habit or structure. The reference to a flamingo observed by Mr. Beebe, weeping from terror because a condor was playfully "galloping" around it, illustrates also the author's happy choice of words.

The suggestion of problems to the solution of which careful observers can bring assistance, the frequent references to Nature's evasions of our pet theories, and the conservative position taken on disputed points, begets in the reader a strong and deserved feeling of confidence that Mr. Beebe possesses together with his power of picturesque presentation the wide knowledge and sound judgment of a trained scientist. Mr. Beebe is evidently a strong believer in sexual selection, but he puts forth (p. 318) an interesting suggestion that the display of the male bird instead of affecting the æsthetic sense of the female may induce some sort of hypnotic condition. In the chapter on The Body of the Bird (pp. 292-295) there are some interesting observations on color changes due directly to environment or food. White-throated sparrows and wood thrushes turned almost black when confined in a bird house where the air was constantly moist.

The book is extremely rich in illustrations, chiefly photographs of great clearness and beauty taken from life by the author. Their excellence adds much to the attractiveness of the work, and the skill with which they have been selected and arranged is evidence of the author's gift as a teacher. There is an excellent index, and a brief list of useful books.

Though primarily intended for the instruction of amateurs, Mr. Beebe's book is one that will at once win an honorable place in the library of every teacher of natural history. No public library or school should be without it. It will be the hope of all who use this manual, that Mr. Beebe will follow it by a similar treatment of the intelligence of birds.

R. H.